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Title: Need to accord environment clearance for construction of road from Cachar district to Dima Hasao district of Assam under East-West Corridor project.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (SILCHAR): Recently people of entire Barak Valley have become disheartened follwing a statement made by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam regarding forest clearance to be obtained from National Level Wild life Board for Package no. 14 covering the 31 Km long stretch from Balacherra in Cachar district to Harangajao in Dima Hasao district of Assam for ongoing East- West corridor (Mahasadak) project. As per daily newspaper reports published from Silchar, the Honourable Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam has expressed his doubt that the National Level Wild Life Board may not show green signal to the aforesaid package no. 14 of East-West Corridor. This is shocking news for the people of Barak Valley. This route is not only important for the Barak Valley comprising of three districts of Assam namely Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi but it will be a lifeline for the States of Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur too. Mizoram has long international boundary with Bangladesh and Myanmar whereas Tripura has international boundary with Bangladesh.

Apart from the stretch as mentioned above, the progress of work under other packages of East-West corridor in Assam under the supervision of National Highways Authority of India is not remarkable. The progress of work under package no AS 21 covering the stretch from Harangajao to Jatinga in Dima Hassao District of Assam having 25 Km length is very slow. So far approximately 20% progress has been achieved. If such is the pace of work, then the Construction of East -West corridor project will become a never ending process. I, therefore, urge the Government to take suitable steps in this regard.